

REMARKS

Claims 2 and 4-11 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, the specification is amended, claims 1 and 12-14 are cancelled, and claims 2, 4 and 6-8 are amended. No new matter is added.

Applicants appreciate the courtesies shown to Applicants' representative by Examiner Chang in the June 9 personal interview. Applicants' separate record of the substance of the interview is incorporated into the following remarks.

I. CLAIM AND SPECIFICATION AMENDMENTS

Support for the amendment to claim 2 can be found in the specification as originally filed, for example at page 3, lines 11-16 and in claims 1 and 2 as originally filed. Support for the amendments to claim 4 can be found in original claims 1 and 4. Support for the amendments to claim 6 may be found in original claims 4 and 6. Support for the amendments to claim 7 may be found in the specification as originally filed, for example, in the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 8 and in the Examples. Support for the amendment to claim 8 can be found in claim 8 as originally filed. Support for the amendments to the specification can be found in the specification as originally filed, for example, in the Examples. Thus, no new matter is added by these amendments.

II. CLAIM OBJECTION

The Office Action objects to claim 8 because of informalities in the claim. Specifically, the Office Action asserts that claim 8 recites an improper Markush group. Applicants respectfully submit that claim 8 has been amended to set forth the subject matter therein using proper Markush format. As agreed to in the interview, claim 8 now recites a proper Markush group. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

III. REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §112, SECOND PARAGRAPH

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 2 and 4-11 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as allegedly indefinite for failure to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter Applicants regard as the invention. Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 has been canceled and claims 2, 4 and 6-8 have been amended herein to correct the various informalities in the claims. As agreed to in the interview, claims 2 and 4-11 are not indefinite. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

IV. REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102

The Office Action rejects claims 1 and 2 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent 5,700,891 to Huver et al. (Huver). By this Amendment, claim 1 is canceled, thus rendering the rejection of this claim moot. Claim 2 has been amended to depend from non-rejected claim 4. As claim 2 includes all of the limitations of non-rejected claim 4, and as agreed to in the interview, Huver does not teach all of the limitations of dependent claim 2.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

V. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §112, FIRST PARAGRAPH

The Office Action rejects claims 4-11 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Specifically, the Office Action states:

The Examiner notes that such a method of forming adhesive polymer layer is unexpected and unobvious, since it is common and well known that a cured polymer inherently lacks adhesiveness, due to a greatly reduced polymer chain mobility after the polymer is cured (crosslinked), as evidenced by the teachings of JP 3-294376 (Abstract), which is directed to a method of forming a printing roll.

As such, the Examiner notes that in the absence of a disclosure regarding how a cured polymer can be adhesive, the Specification lacks required enablement...

Thus, the Office Action states generally that all cured polymers inherently lacks adhesiveness, and cites only JP 3-294376 in support of this general allegation.

MPEP § 2164.01(b) states that as long as the specification discloses at least one method for making and using the claimed invention that bears a reasonable correlation to the entire scope of the claim, then the enablement requirement of 35 U.S.C. 112 is satisfied. *In re Fisher*, 427 F.2d 833, 839, 166 USPQ 18, 24 (CCPA 1970). MPEP §2164.06 states that the test is not merely quantitative, since a considerable amount of experimentation is permissible, if it is merely routine, or if the specification in question provides a reasonable amount of guidance with respect to the direction in which the experimentation should proceed. *In re Wands*, 858, F.2d 731, 737, 8 USPQ2d 1400, 1404 (Fed. Cir. 1988) (citing *In re Angstadt*, 537 F.2d 489, 502-04, 190 USPQ 214, 217-19 (CCPA 1976.)).

Claim 4 directed to an adhesive material comprising a supporting layer and an adhesive polymer formed from a polymerized and cured urethane prepolymer impregnated into or coated onto the supporting layer. Applicants disclose irradiating a urethane prepolymer of formula [I] with an active energy ray polymerizes and cures the urethane prepolymer to make the adhesive polymer. See the specification at page 8, lines 8-9, at page 3, lines 6-10, at page 6, lines 3-11, and Figure 1. Applicants further disclose that the polymerization reaction of the urethane polymer by an active energy ray can be performed using an electron beam, ultraviolet rays, visible rays and infrared rays. See the specification at page 8, lines 23-26. In addition, Applicants disclose that the urethane prepolymer will be cured after going through high polymer quantification, allowing easy and efficient formation of the adhesive polymer. See the specification at page 9, lines 1-5.

Furthermore, Applicants disclose seven working examples demonstrating an adhesive polymer formed from a polymerized and cured urethane prepolymer. See Examples 1-7. For example, Example 1 discloses very specific steps for making the claimed adhesive polymer

formed from a polymerized and cured urethane prepolymer. Specifically, Example 1 discloses:

A urethane prepolymer was prepared as follows: Polyesterpolyol used as a raw material has a number average molecular weight of 2000, of which an unsaturated dimer acid of 34 carbons, and 1,6-hexanediol were carried out polycondensation. 7 mol equivalent of this polyesterpolyol and 8 mol equivalent of isophorone diisocyanate, i.e. IPDI, were stirred at 80 to 90°C under the existence of catalytic amount of dibutyltin dilaurate as catalyst and di-t-butyl-hydroxyphenol as an antioxidant to carry out urethanized reaction. On termination of the reaction, dibutylamine was added to an extracted portion of the reaction mixture, and was reacted with a free isocyanate group. The equivalent of isocyanate was determined by performing a back titration on the amount of amine by hydrochloric acid. Subsequently, 1 mol equivalent of hydroxyethyl acrylate constituting A-O-, and isooctanol constituting -O-E, and a catalytic amount of p-methoxyphenol as a thermal polymerization inhibitor, were added to this reaction mixture. Stirring was continued at the same temperature. The termination of the reaction was determined as the absorption peak of 2280cm^{-1} of the isocyanate group disappeared when an extracted portion of the reaction mixture was measured by an infrared absorption spectrum method. The obtained urethane prepolymer had a number average molecular weight of 31000 and was a viscous liquefied resin substance.

A compound for adhesive polymer formation was prepared by fully mixing 3 weight parts of hydroxycyclohexyl phenyl ketone as photo polymerization initiator, with 100 weight part of this urethane prepolymer. The compound was coated on two sheets of a mold release film by a thickness of 0.2mm using a hot-melt applicator adjusted at 100°C.

As a sheet-like supporting layer, a Japanese paper having a thickness of 0.2 mm had been strengthened by being coated polypropylene on its surface. One side of the Japanese paper was mounted on the compound of one of mold release films and, further, the other mold release applied the compound was covered over the other side of the Japanese paper. Under the same temperature, those compounds and the sheet-like supporting layer were adhered together by pressure to a thickness of 0.38mm, using a spacer.

Ultraviolet ray of $1000\text{mJ}/\text{cm}^2$ was irradiated on the both sides from a light source of a high-pressure mercury lamp and the urethane prepolymer thus polymerized to be cured. An

adhesive material, which consisted of the supporting layer and adhesive polymer layers on both sides thereof, was obtained.

See the specification at page 15, lines 1-20. Example 1 also demonstrates that:

When a print-proof test was carried out at a print speed of 100m/min, the relief film on the printing base showed no signs of shifting or peeling off even after printing 100000m. Furthermore, no signs of shifting or peeling off were found even after 10 times of repeating the procedure of peeling off, re-sticking the relief film and carrying out the print-proof test.

See the specification at page 16, lines 1-6. Examples 2-7 provide similar detailed working examples and positive results.

Thus, the specification discloses at least one method for making and using the claimed invention that bears a reasonable correlation to the entire scope of claim 4. Furthermore, the specification clearly provides a reasonable amount of guidance with respect to the direction in which any routine experimentation should proceed.

In addition, MPEP §2164.04 states that a specification disclosure that contains a teaching of the manner and process of making and using an invention in terms that correspond in scope to those used in describing and defining the subject matter sought to be patented must be taken as being in compliance with the enablement requirement of 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, unless there is a reason to doubt the objective truth of the statements contained therein that must be relied on for enabling support. MPEP §2164.05 states that the examiner must weigh all the evidence before him or her, including the specification and any new evidence supplied by applicant with the evidence and/or sound scientific reasoning previously presented in the rejection and decide whether the claimed invention is enabled. The examiner should **never** make the determination based on personal opinion. The determination should always be based on the weight of all the evidence. (Emphasis in original).

As discussed above, the Office Action states the Examiner's opinion that all cured polymers inherently lacks adhesiveness, and cites only JP 3-294376 in support of this general allegation. However, the Examiner's opinion is insufficient grounds for doubting the objective truth of the disclosure in the specification, and JP 03-294376 does not support the Office Action's general allegation. The Office Action fails to consider the detailed disclosure in the specification, which clearly enables claim 4, as discussed immediately above.

Moreover, JP 03-294376 is directed to a tacky sheet employing a curable tacky agent such as an acrylic acid ester. See JP 03-294376, Abstract. However, JP 03-294376 does not teach or suggest that a cured urethane prepolymer cannot be an adhesive. In other words, JP 03-294376 does not disclose the use of an urethane prepolymer that is representable by formula (I) as a tacky agent that loses any adhesive properties upon curing thereof. See JP 03-294376, Abstract. Thus, JP 03-294376 does not support the Examiner's personal opinion, and does not support the Office Action's general allegations, that all cured polymers inherently lacks adhesiveness.

Furthermore, Applicants submit herewith new evidence, in addition to the disclosure in the specification, that refutes the Examiner's personal opinion, and refutes the Office Action's general allegations, that all cured polymers inherently lacks adhesiveness. In particular, Applicants submit herewith WO 01/16244 and a physical, working Sample of an adhesive material in which a cured urethane resin has been cured to bring about adhesion. The urethane oligomer resin of WO 01/16244 is similar to the claimed urethane prepolymer, and WO 01/16244 discloses that the urethane oligomer resin is cured to bring about adhesion. See at least claims 1, 15 and 22. The attached Sample is a working embodiment of Example 2 of WO 01/16244.

Specifically, WO 01/16244 discloses that the pressure sensitive adhesive (PSA) derived from curing the urethane oligomer resin exhibits improved peel strength and tack.

See WO 01/16244 at page 2, lines 27-28. The PSA is used, for example, in masking tape, packaging tape, sealing tapes, transparent tapes, medical tapes, self-stick removable notes, and self-sealing envelopes and packages, as well as digital video disks. See WO 01/16244 at page 10, lines 19-21.

In addition, WO 01/16244 discloses specific examples how to make and how to evaluate the PSA derived from curing the urethane oligomer resin, and provides evidence of successful testing of the resulting PSA. See examples 1-8. In particular, WO 01/16244 discloses that the quality of the PSA derived from curing the urethane oligomer resin is determined by properties such as "peel adhesion," "quick stick," "rolling ball tack," and "sheer adhesion." See WO 01/16244 at page 11, line 26 to page 12, line 13. As can be seen in Table III of WO 01/16244, the PSA derived from curing the urethane oligomer resin exhibits the desired adhesive properties. Furthermore, as can be seen in the attached working Sample of the embodiment disclosed in Example 2, the cured urethane oligomer resin is adhesive. Thus, WO 01/16244 and Sample 2 refute the Examiner's personal opinion and the Office Action's general allegations, and provide further evidence that claim 4 is enabled by the specification.

For at least the reasons discussed above, the claims and specification satisfy the requirements of §112, first paragraph, because the specification discloses at least one method for making and using the claimed invention that bears a reasonable correlation to the entire scope of claim 4, and provides a reasonable amount of guidance with respect to the direction in which any routine experimentation should proceed.. Furthermore, the Examiner's opinion is insufficient grounds for doubting the truth of the disclosure in the specification, and JP 03-294376 does not support the Examiner's general allegation. In addition, WO 01/16244 and Sample 2 refute the Examiner's personal opinion and the Office Action's general allegations.

Therefore, claim 4 satisfies the requirements of §112, first paragraph. Claims 5-11 are rejected as depending from claim 4. Accordingly, these dependent claims satisfy the requirements of §112, first paragraph, for at least the same reasons as claim 4.

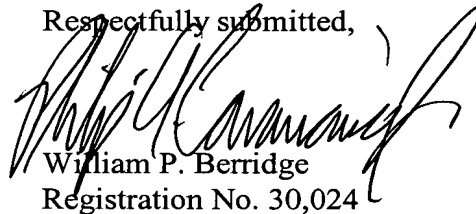
Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

VI. CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 2 and 4-11 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachments:

WO 01/16244A1
Adhesive Sample

Date: June 24, 2004

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(54) Title: ENERGY-CURABLE COMPOSITION FOR MAKING A PRESSURE SENSITIVE ADHESIVE

(57) Abstract: An energy-curable polymer-forming composition for making a pressure sensitive adhesive includes an unsaturated oligomer resin and an adhesive promoter which increases the peel strength of the adhesive without reducing its tack. The composition also includes a tackifier and various other optional components such as photoinitiator, chain extender, reactive diluent and the like.

WO 01/16244 A1

**ENERGY-CURABLE COMPOSITION FOR MAKING A PRESSURE
SENSITIVE ADHESIVE**

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

The present disclosure relates to adhesives, and particularly to pressure sensitive adhesives derived from energy-curable polymer-forming compositions.

2. Background of the Related Art

Pressure sensitive adhesives are known in the art. A pressure sensitive adhesive ("PSA") is one which in dry form is aggressively and permanently tacky at room temperature and which firmly adheres to a variety of dissimilar surfaces upon mere contact without the need of more than finger or hand pressure. PSA requires no activation by heat or solvents. It should have a sufficiently cohesive holding and elastic nature so that it can be removed from a surface without leaving a residue. PSAs are generally used in adhesive tapes and labels. An adhesive tape typically includes a substrate, i.e., a backing, to which the PSA is applied. Usually a primer is used to treat the surface of the backing to provide greater anchoring of the PSA. If the tape is stored in a rolled configuration the opposite surface of the backing is generally coated with a release coating, such as silicone, to allow unrolling of the tape.

Various types of PSAs are known. For example, PSA can be made from tackified natural or synthetic rubbers, ethylene-vinyl acetate copolymers, acrylics, vinyl acetate copolymers, silicones, and polymerized vinyl alkyl ethers.

Hot melt type PSAs are typically heated to a temperature sufficient to render the PSA sufficiently fluid so that it can be applied to a substrate.

Solution type PSA's are generally dissolved in a solvent to form a fluid which can be applied to a substrate. The solvent is thereafter evaporated to form the PSA coating.

Energy-curable formulations for making PSAs typically include unsaturated monomers or oligomers, especially acrylate type compounds. Such formulations also typically include a photoinitiator which is responsive to, for example, ultraviolet radiation (UV) for initiating polymerization. Such formulations are applied to a substrate as a fluid prepolymer, and are thereafter polymerized to form the PSA layer.

The properties of the PSA can be tailored by altering the type and/or composition percentage of the components in the formulation. However, it is not uncommon that improvement in one property of the PSA results in a detrimental change in another. For example, to increase the peel strength of the PSA a higher softening point tackifier can be used, or the content of di-or multi-functional oligomer resin can be increased. However, in each case, the PSA tack is reduced. What is needed is a method which can be used to improve the peel strength, while not incurring a corresponding detriment to the tack.

SUMMARY

An energy-curable polymer-forming composition is provided herein which includes an unsaturated oligomer resin and a compound of the general formula:



wherein R^1 is hydrogen or methyl, R^2 is a substituted or unsubstituted alkylene group having from 2 to about 6 carbon atoms, and R^3 , R^4 , R^5 , R^6 , R^7 , and R^8 are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and the other of said groups R^3 and R^4 is a straight or branched chain, saturated or unsaturated aliphatic, cycloaliphatic, or polycycloaliphatic groups possessing from 1 to about 20 carbon atoms, subject to the provision that at least one of groups R^3 , R^4 , R^5 , R^6 , R^7 , and R^8 is, other than hydrogen, and n is 0 or 1.

The pressure sensitive adhesive derived from the composition described herein exhibits improved peel strength and tack.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT(S)

All quantities appearing hereafter shall be understood to be modified by the term "about" except in the Examples and where otherwise indicated.

The energy-curable PSA formulation of the present invention includes an unsaturated oligomer resin and a novel adhesion promoter discussed in detail below. The PSA formulation advantageously also includes a tackifier, chain extender and/or reactive diluent, and optionally a polymerization initiator and antioxidant. Various other optional additives can also be incorporated into the PSA formulation, such as plasticizers, fillers, colorants, fibers, glass or polymeric particles, electrically or thermally conducting particles, and other such materials known in the art.

A range of typical component percentages for energy-curable PSA formulations is given below in Table I.

TABLE I
(% by Weight)

<u>Component</u>	<u>Broad Range</u>	<u>Preferred Range</u>
Oligomer Resin	from 10% to 70%	from 30% to 40%
Chain Extender	from 0% to 50%	from 20% to 30%
Reactive Diluent	from 0% to 50%	from 2% to 10%
Tackifier	from 5% to 50%	from 10% to 30%
Adhesion Promoter	from 0% to 50%	from 2% to 10%
Polymerization Initiator	from 0.1% to 20%	from 3% to 10%
Antioxidant	from 0% to 5%	from 0.5% to 2%
Polymerization Stabilizer	from 0.01% to 1%	from 0.05% to 0.2%

Referring now more specifically to the individual components, the oligomers used in the energy-curable PSA formulation are liquid at room temperature without adding solvent thereto and contain at least one unsaturated double bond at terminals or side chains of the molecule.

These liquid oligomers can be synthesized by various, for example, methods such as:

(1) A condensation polymerization process by reacting a diol and a diacid or diester with a number average molecular weight of from about 500 g/mole to about 40,000 g/mole in a suitable organic solvent by a conventional solution polymerization, and then reacting the hydroxyl groups on the resulting polyester with an acrylic or methacrylic acid in the presence of a polymerization inhibitor and a catalyst to introduce olefinic unsaturated bonds into the resin;

(2) A condensation polymerization process by reacting a diamine and a diacid or diester with a number average molecular weight of from about 500 g/mole to about 40,000 g/mole, and then reacting the hydroxyl groups on the resulting polyamide with an acrylic or methacrylic acid in the presence of a polymerization inhibitor and a catalyst to introduce olefinic unsaturated bonds into the resin;

(3) A condensation polymerization process by reacting a diol and a diisocyanate with a number average molecular weight of from about 500 g/mole to about 40,000 g/mole, and then reacting the resulting compound (half urethane) with a hydroxyl terminated acrylic molecule to introduce olefinic unsaturated bonds into the resin;

(4) A condensation polymerization by reacting a polyether and a diisocyanate with excess isocyanate functionality having a number average molecular weight of from about 500 g/mole to about 40,000 g/mole, and then reacting the resulting compound (half urethane) with a hydroxyl terminated acrylic molecule in the presence of a polymerization inhibitor and a catalyst to introduce olefinic unsaturated bonds into the resin;

(5) A condensation polymerization by reacting a diol and diacid or diester with excess functionality and having a number average molecular weight of from about 500 g/mole to about 40,000 g/mole, and then reacting the resulting compound with an unsaturated monomer having an epoxy group in the presence of a polymerization inhibitor and a catalyst to introduce olefinic unsaturated bonds into the resin;

(6) A polymerization process by reacting a hydroxyl terminated polyether and a diisocyanate, diol, or dicarboxylic acid with a number average molecular weight of from about 500 g/mole to about 40,000 g/mole, and then reacting the resulting epoxy functional compound with a carboxylic acid pendent vinyl monomer in the presence of a

polymerization inhibitor and a catalyst to introduce olefinic unsaturated bonds into the resin.

The polyester compounds referred to above may be produced from linear, branched, or cyclic aliphatic or aryl diols or diacids such as, for example, neopentane diol, hexamethylene diol, cyclohexane diol, phthalic acid, adipic acid, or the like. The diisocyanate compounds can be, for example, tolylene diisocyanate, isophorone diisocyanate, hexamethylene diisocyanate, or the like.

The hydroxyl terminated acrylic molecules can be, for example, 2-hydroxyethyl acrylate, 2-hydroxyethyl methacrylate, 2-hydroxypropyl acrylate, 2-hydroxypropyl methacrylate, or the like. The carboxyl functional acrylic monomers include, for example, acrylic acid, methacrylic acid and the like.

The acrylic ester compound to be used can include, for example, methyl acrylate, methyl methacrylate, ethyl acrylate, ethyl methacrylate, butyl acrylate, butyl methacrylate, isobutyl acrylate, isobutyl methacrylate, octadecyl acrylate, octadecyl methacrylate, 2-ethylhexyl acrylate, 2-ethylhexyl methacrylate, and the like. It is preferable that such an acrylic ester compound is present in the main chain of the oligomer in an amount of 5% by weight or more.

The monomer having a carboxyl group can include, for example, acrylic acid, methacrylic acid, and the like. The monomer having an epoxy group can include, for example, glycidyl acrylate, glycidyl methacrylate, etc. The monomer having a hydroxyl group includes, for example, 2-hydroxyethyl acrylate, 2-hydroxyethyl methacrylate, 2-hydroxypropyl acrylate, 2-hydroxypropyl methacrylate, etc. Further, the monomer having an amino group can include, for example, dimethylaminoethyl acrylate, dimethylaminoethyl methacrylate, diethylaminoethyl acrylate, diethylaminoethyl methacrylate, etc.

Suitable oligomers for use in the PSA formulation can be made by reacting lactone-acrylate adducts with polycarboxylic polyanhydrides in accordance with the method described in U.S. Patent No. 5,912,381 to Narayan et al., which is herein incorporated by reference in its entirety. Preferred oligomers are urethane acrylate oligomers. An especially preferred oligomer resin for use in the PSA formulation herein is a difunctional aromatic urethane acrylate having a weight average molecular weight of

from about 8,500 to about 30,000, preferably 16,000 to 18,000, which is available from Henkel Corporation under the designation RCC 13-572.

As used herein the term "tackifier" refers to any material which is useful to impart tack to the adhesive composition. Tack is defined by ASTM D-1878-61T as the property of a material which enables it to form a bond of measurable strength immediately on contact with another surface. Generally, tackifiers are useful in energy curable PSA formulations in concentrations ranging from 0% to about 50% by weight of the formulation, preferably from about 10% to 30% by weight.

Tackifiers for use in the present formulation can include natural and synthetic terpenes, phenol modified terpenes, tall oil, gum rosin, wood rosin, hydrocarbon resins such as polyvinyl cyclohexane and poly (t-butyl styrene), and rosin esters such as glycerol esters of rosin and pentaerythritol esters of rosin. Suitable tackifiers for use in the PSA formulation include commercially available Norsolene hydrocarbon resin.

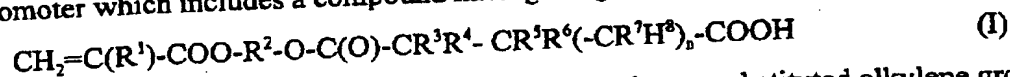
Chain extenders can be incorporated into the PSA formulation to extend the chain length of the oligomer. Chain extenders build linear structures between crosslinking points. Preferred chain extenders for use in the PSA formulation of the present invention include nonyl phenol ethoxylate monoacrylate (available from Henkel Corporation under the designation PH 4003), 2-phenoxy ethyl acrylate (available from Henkel Corporation under the designation PH 4035), phenol ethoxylate monoacrylate (available from Henkel Corporation under the designation PH 4039), and propoxylated nonylphenol acrylate, (available from Henkel Corporation under the designation RCC 12-960).

Reactive diluents are used to lower the viscosity of the PSA formulation to facilitate application of the formulation to a substrate at room temperature. Reactive diluents include a wide variety of free-radically polymerizable monomers such as: monoacrylates and methacrylates such as methyl acrylate, methyl methacrylate, ethyl acrylate, isopropyl methacrylate, isooctyl acrylate, isobornyl acrylate, isobornyl methacrylate, acrylic, n-hexyl acrylate, stearyl acrylate, allyl acrylate, tetrahydrofurfuryl(meth) acrylate, 2(2-ethoxyethoxy)ethyl acrylate, 2-phenoxyethyl acrylate, ethoxylated nonyl phenol acrylate, copolymerizable mixtures of acrylated monomers such as those of U.S.

WO 01/16244

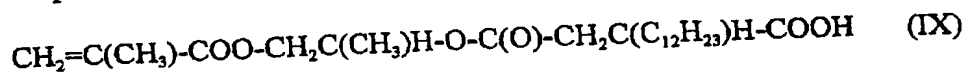
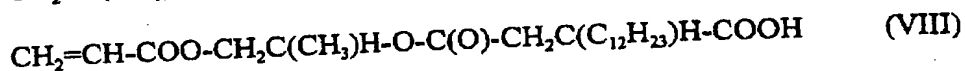
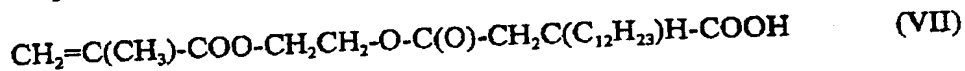
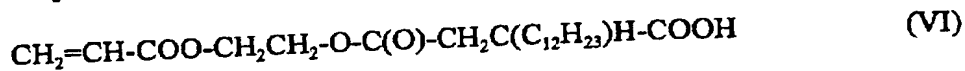
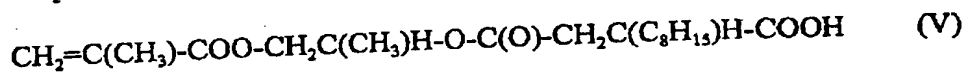
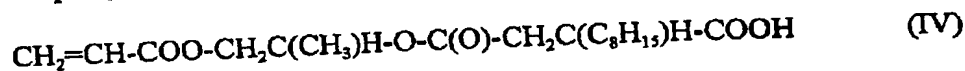
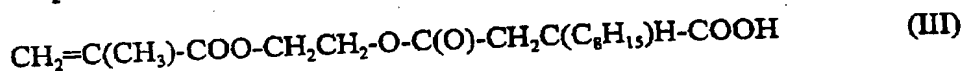
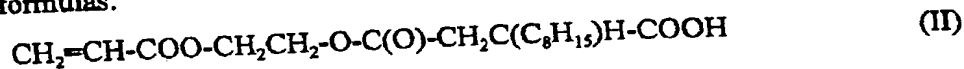
Patent No. 4,652,274, and acrylated oligomers such as those of U.S. Patent No. 4,642,126, both of which are incorporated herein by reference. A preferred reactive diluent is monomethoxy tripropylene glycol monoacrylate, available from Henkel Corporation under the designation Photomer® 8061. Also useful is a reactive amine/ tripropylene glycol diacrylate adduct available from Henkel Corporation under the designation RCC 12-967.

The PSA formulation of the present invention includes a novel adhesion promoter which includes a compound having the general formula:



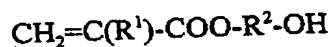
wherein R^1 is hydrogen or methyl, R^2 is a substituted or unsubstituted alkylene groups having from 2 to about 6 carbon atoms, and R^3 , R^4 , R^5 , R^6 , R^7 , and R^8 are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and straight or branched chain, saturated or unsaturated aliphatic, cycloaliphatic or polycycloaliphatic groups possessing from 1 to about 20 carbon atoms. In one preferred embodiment, at least one of R^3 , R^4 , R^5 , R^6 , R^7 , or R^8 is an unsaturated aliphatic group. Octanyl and docenyl are particularly preferred examples of suitable substituents.

Suitable adhesion promoters include, for example, the compounds having the following formulas:



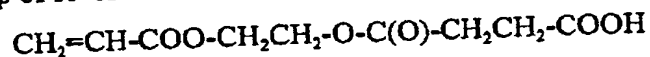
The most preferred adhesion promoters include the octenyl-mono{1-methyl-2-[(2-methyl-1-oxo-2-propenyl)oxy]-1-methyl-ethyl} ester of butanedioic acid (Compound V, above); dodecenyl mono{1-methyl-2-[(2-methyl-1-oxo-2-propenyl)oxy]-1-methyl-ethyl} ester of butanedioic acid (Compound IX, above); the octenyl-mono{2-[(2-methyl-1-oxo-2-propenyl)oxy] ethyl} ester of butanedioic acid (Compound III, above); and the dodecenyl mono{2-[(2-methyl-1-oxo-2-propenyl)oxy] ethyl} ester of butanedioic acid (Compound VII, above).

The adhesion promoter of the present invention can be synthesized by reacting in a conventional manner a hydroxy alkyl ester of (meth)acrylic acid with, for example, an alkyl-, alkenyl-, or alkynyl-substituted cyclic anhydride such as a substituted succinic anhydride, substituted glutaric anhydride, or the like. Thus, the hydroxyalkyl ester of (meth) acrylic acid has the formula:

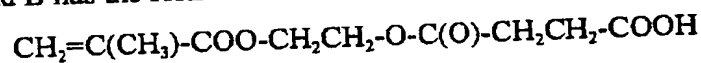


wherein R^1 is hydrogen or methyl, and R^2 is a substituted or unsubstituted alkylene group having from 2 to about 6 carbon atoms. Preferred unsubstituted alkylene groups include, for example, $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2-$ and $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2-$. A suitable methyl substituted alkylene group can include, for example, $-\text{CH}_2\text{C}(\text{CH}_3)\text{H}-$. Suitable hydroxy alkyl (meth)acrylate esters include, for example, hydroxy ethyl acrylate, hydroxyethyl methacrylate hydroxypropyl acrylate, and hydroxypropyl methacrylate. Suitable alkyl, alkenyl and alkynyl-substituted anhydrides are known in the art and commercially available.

The adhesion promoter of the present invention advantageously improves both peel strength and tack. Table II below sets forth a comparison of PSAs prepared from formulations including adhesion promoters in accordance with formula I above as opposed to PSAs without adhesion promoter or with adhesion promoters lacking the aliphatic group of R^3 or R^4 . In Table II, Compound A has the formula



and Compound B has the formula



and, therefore, neither Compound A nor Compound B falls within the scope of the present invention. Compounds II, III, and VII are respectively in accordance with the formulas II, III, and VII given above.

TABLE II
(Characteristics of PSAs containing different adhesion promoters)

<u>Adhesion Promoter</u>	<u>Peel Strength (g/in.)</u>	<u>Loop Tack (g/in²)</u>
None	800	900
Compound A	750-800	900
Compound B	800	750-800
Compound II	950	1150
Compound III	1350	1500
Compound VII	1250	1400

As can be seen from Table II, PSAs containing Compounds II, III, and VII of the present invention are characterized by at least an 18% greater peel strength and 27% greater loop tack than PSAs containing no adhesion promoter or Compounds A or B, above.

Curing of the PSA formulation is accomplished by exposure to a suitable energy source such as, for example, heat, ultraviolet (UV) radiation, or electron beam (EB) radiation. If EB radiation is used the PSA formulation does not need a polymerization initiator. However, if UV radiation or heat curing are contemplated a suitable photoinitiator or thermal initiator is required.

Photoinitiators suitable for use herein include 2-hydroxy-2-methyl-1-phenyl-1-propanone, benzil dimethyl ketal, 2,2-diethoxy-1,2-diphenylethanone, 1-hydroxy-cyclohexyl-phenyl ketone, 1-(4-isopropylphenyl)-2-hydroxy-2-methyl-propan-1-one, 1-[4-(2-hydroxyethoxy)phenyl]-2-hydroxy-2-methyl-propan-1-one, 2-methyl-1-[4-(methylthio)phenyl]-2-morpholino-propan-1-one, 2-benzyl-2-dimethylamino-1-(4-morpholinophenyl)-butan-1-one, 3,6-bis(2-methyl-2-morpholino-propanonyl)-9-butyl-carbazole, 4,4'-bis(dimethylamino)benzophenone, 2-chlorothioxanthone, 4-chlorothioxanthone, 2-isopropylthioxanthone, 4-isopropylthioxanthone, 2,4-dimethylthioxanthone, 2,4-diethylthioxanthone, 4-benzoyl-N,N-dimethyl-N-[2-(1-oxo-2-propenyl)oxy]ethylbenzenemethanaminium chloride, methyl diethanolamine, triethanolamine, ethyl 4-(dimethylamino)benzoate, 2-n-butoxyethyl 4-(dimethylamino)benzoate and combinations thereof.

Of the above listed photoinitiators the most preferred are 2-hydroxy-2-methyl-1-phenyl-1-propanone (available from Ciba-Geigy under the designation Darocur 1173) and 2-benzyl-2-dimethylamino-1-(4-morpholinophenyl)-butan-1-one (available from Ciba-Geigy under the designation Irgacure 369).

5 Thermal initiators include peroxides, hydroperoxides, peresters, and diazo compounds such as, for example, dibenzoyl peroxide, acetyl peroxide, benzoyl hydroperoxide, di-tert-butyl peroxide, tert-butyl hydroperoxide, tert-butyl perbenzoate, and the like.

10 A suitable antioxidant for use in the present invention is tetrakis [methylene (3,5-di-tert-butyl-4-hydroxyhydrocinnamate) methane, which is available from Ciba-Geigy Corporation under the designation Irganox 1010.

A polymerization stabilizer is preferably added to prevent premature polymerization of the formulation prior to the intended curing step. Methylethylhydroquinone (MEHQ) is a suitable stabilizer.

15 The PSA formulation is made by mixing the components listed above in a suitable vessel.

The prepared formulation is in a fluid condition when uncured, and is applied by spraying, brushing, wiping (or other suitable method) to a suitable substrate, for example a backing strip for an adhesive tape or label. PSAs are used, for example, in 20 masking tape, packaging tape, sealing tapes, transparent tapes, medical tapes, self-stick removable notes, and self-sealing envelopes and packages, as well as digital video disks. The substrates to which the PSA can be applied include paper, flexible polymeric film, rigid plastics, metal (e.g., metal foils or sheets), ceramics, glass, wood, and the like.

25 In the method of coating a substrate according to the invention, the PSA formulation, optionally containing a photoinitiator, is applied to the surface of the substrate and subsequently exposed to a radiation source until an adherent dry polymerized film is formed on the substrate. Sources of radiant energy appropriate for initiating cure of the formulations have been described extensively in the literature and are well known to those skilled in the art. These include various sources of particulate 30 and non-particulate radiation producing wavelengths generally less than 700 nanometers. Especially useful is actinic radiation in the 180-440 nm range which can be conveniently

obtained by use of one of several commercially available ultra-violet sources specifically intended for this purpose. These include low, medium and high pressure mercury vapor lamps, He-Cd and Ar lasers, xenon arc lamps, etc. Photoinitiator systems having a corresponding sensitivity to light in this wave band are normally incorporated into the formulation and upon irradiation lead to the formation of reactive species capable of initiating free radical polymerization. Similarly, free radical polymerization may be induced by exposure of the formulation to an electron beam without the use of a photoinitiator. Equipment capable of generating a curtain of electrons with energies between 150 and 300 KeV is particularly suitable for this purpose and its use is well documented in the literature.

Particularly preferred sources of radiation emit electromagnetic radiation predominantly in the ultra-violet band. When such a source is used, the polymerizable composition preferably contains a photoinitiator susceptible to ultraviolet radiation.

The amount of radiation necessary to cure the composition will of course depend on the angle of exposure to the radiation, the thickness of the coating to be applied, and the amount of polymerizable groups in the coating composition as well as the presence or absence of a free radical initiating catalyst. For any given composition, experimentation to determine the amount of radiation sensitive pi bonds not cured following exposure to the radiation source is the best method of determining the amount and duration of the radiation required. Typically, an ultra-violet source with a wavelength between 20 and 420 nm (e.g. a filtered mercury arc lamp is directed at coated surfaces carried on a conveyor system which provides a rate of passage past the ultra-violet source appropriate for the radiation absorption profile of the composition (which profile is influenced by the degree of cure desired, the thickness of the coating to be cured, and the rate of polymerization of the composition).

The quality of the resulting PSA coating is determined by properties such as "peel adhesion", "quick stick", "rolling ball tack", and "shear adhesion".

Peel adhesion is the force required to remove a pressure sensitive tape from a panel or its own backing at a specified angle and speed. Peel adhesion can be measured in accordance with the Pressure Sensitive Tape Council PSTC-1 test standard.

Quick stick is that property of a pressure sensitive tape which causes the tape to adhere to a surface instantly, using no external pressure to secure more thorough contact. In accordance with standardized test PSTC-5, quick stick is measured as the force resisting peeling of a tape at 90° angle from a standard surface upon which it has been applied under no pressure other than the weight of the tape itself.

The rolling ball tack test PSTC-6 measures the tack of adhesive tape where the adhesion is insufficient to give a reading using standard peel adhesion method.

Shear adhesion is defined as the force required to pull the pressure sensitive tape from a standard flat surface in a direction parallel to the surface to which it has been affixed with a definite pressure. In accordance with standard test PSTC-7 shear adhesion is measured in terms of the time required to pull a standard area of tape from a test panel under a standard load, or in terms of the distance the tape has been displaced in a given time on a test panel under a standard load.

The following Examples below are presented for the purpose of illustrating various aspects of the present invention. The following Comparative Example A illustrates a PSA formulation which does not include the adhesion promoter of the present invention.

EXAMPLE 1

Synthesis of Urethane Acrylate Oligomer

A quantity of 0.1 moles of isocyanate terminated prepolymer and 0.1 ml of dibutyltin laurate were charged to a 500 ml glass kettle. The mixture was heated at 70°C and air was purged through the reaction mixture and a solution of diol (0.05 moles) was added dropwise while the mixture was stirred at 200 RPM. After a two hour reaction, hydroxyethyl acrylate (0.1 moles) was added to cap the residual isocyanate and the temperature of the kettle was increased to 77°C. After another two hours, a sample was withdrawn for analysis. The remainder was transferred to a bottle and stored in darkness.

EXAMPLE 2**Synthesis of Adhesion Promoter**

A quantity of 61.43 grams of hydroxyethyl methacrylate (HEMA) was mixed with 0.11g methylethyl hydroquinone (MEHQ) and 0.375g triphenyl phosphine (TPP). To this mixture 94.50 g n-octenyl succinic anhydride was added dropwise over a 10 minute period. The temperature of the mixture was elevated to 88°C during the addition. After the addition the temperature of the mixture was elevated to 100°C. Air was sparged into the reaction mixture during the whole course of the reaction. A quantity of 150.3g of total product was recovered. The product has a viscosity of 200 cps (Brookfield, spindle #3) and a density of 1.03g/ml.

EXAMPLE 3**Synthesis of Adhesion Promoter**

A quantity of 68.00 grams of hydroxypropyl methacrylate was mixed with 0.11g MEHQ and 0.375g TPP. To this mixture 94.50 g n-octenyl succinic anhydride was added dropwise over a 10 minute period. The temperature of the mixture was elevated to 88°C during the addition. After the addition the temperature of the mixture was elevated to 100°C. Air was sparged into the reaction mixture during the whole course of the reaction. A quantity of 161.0g of total product was recovered. The product has a viscosity of 300 cps (Brookfield, spindle #3) and a density of 1.03g/ml.

EXAMPLE 4**Synthesis of Adhesion Promoter**

A quantity of 36 grams of hydroxypropyl methacrylate was mixed with 0.072g MEHQ and 0.26g TPP. To this mixture 66.5g n-dodecenyl succinic anhydride was added dropwise over a 10 minute period. The temperature of the mixture was elevated to 88°C during the addition. After the addition the temperature of the mixture was elevated to 100°C. Air was sparged into the reaction mixture during the whole course of the reaction.

EXAMPLE 5

A urethane oligomer resin was prepared which included: adipic acid/neopentylglycol polyester diol/isophorone diisocyanate/hydroxyethyl acrylate.

The urethane oligomer was prepared by charging adipic acid and neopentyl glycol polyester diol to a flask, and sparging with N₂ while heating up to 65°C. Isophorone diisocyanate (IDPI) was then added over a 15 minute period. The temperature of the reaction was elevated to 85°C for 1 hour. The temperature was then lowered to 70°C and 2-hydroxyethyl acrylate (HEA) was added over a 10 minute period. The temperature of the reaction was then elevated to 90°C for 1 hour 45 minutes. Then one reaction mixture was cooled to 80°C and then removed from the flask and stored. The resulting resin was a clear, light yellow tinted viscous material having a viscosity of 64,906 cps (Brookfield DVIII viscometer #34 spindle, 0.5 rpm at 60°C). The weight average molecular weight (M_w) of the resin was 15,500 and the ratio (M_w/M_n) of the weight average molecular weight to the number average molecular weight (M_n) was 3.7.

The urethane oligomer resin produced in this Example is hereinafter designated as Urethane resin A.

EXAMPLE 6

A PSA formulation was prepared by mixing the following components, wherein "phr" stands for parts by weight per 100 parts by weight of polymer in the composition. Compound V, as indicated above, is the octenyl-mono{1-methyl-2-[(2-methyl-1-oxo-2-propenyl)oxy]-1-methyl-ethyl}ester of butanedioic acid.

Component	Parts by Weight
Urethane resin A (Example 5)	34
Reactive Diluent (Photomer 8061)	6
Adhesion Promoter (Compound V)	6
Chain Extender (PH 4003)	23
Tackifier (Norsolene S-115)	20
Stabilizer (MEHQ)	0.1 phr
Antioxidant (Irganox 1010)	1
Photoinitiator (Darocur 1173)	10

The PSA formulation herein was then applied to a polymer film and cured using a F300SD UV bulb at 25 ft./min. to fabricate a PSA tape. The tape was then tested

for peel strength using PSTC-1, for loop tack using PSTC-5, and for shear strength using PSTC-7 standard test procedures.

The cured PSA exhibited the following characteristics:

180° Peel Strength	1370 g/in
Loop tack	1420 g/in ²
Shear	1780 min.

EXAMPLE 7

A PSA formulation was prepared by mixing the following components.

Component	Parts by weight
Urethane Resin A	37
Photomer 8061	6.5
Compound V	6.5
PH 4003	24.8
Norsolene S-115	21.8
MEHQ	0.1 phr
Irganox 1010	1.2
Darocur 1173	2.2

The formulation was applied to a polymer film and cured in the same manner as in Example 6. The PSA tape was thereafter tested in the same manner as in

Example 6. The cured PSA exhibited the following characteristics:

180° Peel Strength	1540 g/in
Loop tack	1080 g/in ²
Shear	>10,000 min.

EXAMPLE 8

A PSA formulation was prepared by mixing the following components.

Component	Parts by weight
Urethane Resin A	35.5
Photomer 8061	6.3
Compound V	6.3
PH 4003	23.8
Norsolene S-115	20.8
MEHQ	0.1 phr
Irganox 1010	1.0
Darocur 1173	6.3

The formulation was applied to a polymer film and cured in the same manner as in Example 6. The PSA tape was thereafter tested in the same manner as in Example 6. The cured PSA exhibited the following characteristics:

180° Peel Strength	1,400 g/in
Loop tack	1,440 g/in ²
Shear	5,660 min.

COMPARATIVE EXAMPLE A

A PSA formulation was prepared by mixing the following components, which do not include an adhesion promoter.

Component	Parts by weight
Urethane Resin A	34
Photomer 8061	6
PH 4003	29
Norsolene S-115	20
MEHQ	0.1 phr
Irganox 1010	1
Darocur 1173	10

The formulation was applied to a polymer film, cured and tested in the same manner as Example 6. The cured PSA exhibited the following characteristics:

180° Peel Strength	742 g/in
Loop tack	863 g/in ²
Shear	5,000 min.

As can be seen from Table III below, which summarizes the test results from Examples 6, 7, 8 and the present Comparative Example A, incorporation of the adhesion promoter of the present invention into the PSA formulation significantly improves the characteristics of the cured PSA, especially with regard to 180° peel strength and loop tack.

TABLE III

Example	Peel Strength (g/in)	Loop tack (g/in ²)	Shear (min)
6	1,370	1,420	1,780
7	1,540	1,080	>10,000
8	1,400	1,440	5,660
Comp. Ex. A	742	863	5,000

COMPARATIVE EXAMPLE B

A low strength masking tape commercially available from Manco Co. was tested for 180° peel strength and loop tack in accordance with the testing procedures of Example 6 above. The masking tape exhibited a peel strength of 830 g/in. and a loop tack of 440 g/in².

COMPARATIVE EXAMPLE C

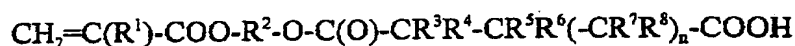
A high strength packaging tape commercially available from 3M Co. under the designation Scotch® 3750 was tested for 180° peel strength and loop tack in accordance with the testing procedures of Example 6 above. The packaging tape exhibited a peel strength of 1090 g/in. and a loop tack of 1250 g/in². As can be seen, the PSA produced from the formulation of the present invention exhibited a higher peel strength and loop tack than the commercially available product.

While the above description contains many specifics, these specifics should not be construed as limitations on the scope of the invention, but merely as exemplifications of preferred embodiments thereof. Those skilled in the art will envision many other possible variations within the scope and spirit of the claims appended hereto.

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An energy-curable polymer-forming composition which comprises:

- a) an unsaturated oligomer resin; and
b) a compound having the formula



wherein R^1 is hydrogen or methyl, R^2 is a substituted or unsubstituted alkylene group having from 2 to about 6 carbon atoms, and R^3 , R^4 , R^5 , R^6 , R^7 , and R^8 are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and the other of said groups R^3 and R^4 is a straight or branched chain, saturated or unsaturated aliphatic, cycloaliphatic, or polycycloaliphatic groups possessing from 1 to about 20 carbon atoms, subject to the provision that at least one of groups R^3 , R^4 , R^5 , R^6 , R^7 , and R^8 is, other than hydrogen, and n is 0 or 1.

2. The composition of claim 1 wherein R^1 is methyl.

3. The composition of claim 1 wherein R^2 is $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2-$.

4. The composition of claim 1 wherein R^2 is $-\text{CH}_2\text{C}(\text{CH}_3)\text{H}-$.

5. The composition of claim 1 wherein one of R^3 , R^4 , R^5 , R^6 , R^7 , or R^8 is $-\text{C}_8\text{H}_{15}$.

6. The composition of claim 5 wherein R^1 is hydrogen and R^2 is $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2-$.

7. The composition of claim 5 wherein R^1 is hydrogen and R^2 is $-\text{CH}_2\text{C}(\text{CH}_3)\text{H}-$.

8. The composition of claim 5 wherein R^1 is methyl and R^2 is

-CH₂CH₂-.

9. The composition of claim 5 wherein R^1 is methyl and R^2 is

-CH₂C(CH₃)H-.

10. The composition of claim 1 wherein one of R^3 , R^4 , R^5 , R^6 , R^7 , and R^8

is -C₁₂H₂₃-.

11. The composition of claim 10 wherein R^1 is hydrogen and R^2 is

-CH₂CH₂-.

12. The composition of claim 10 wherein R^1 is hydrogen and R^2 is

-CH₂C(CH₃)H-.

13. The composition of claim 10 wherein R^1 is methyl and R^2 is

-CH₂CH₂-.

14. The composition of claim 10 wherein R^1 is methyl and R^2 is

-CH₂C(CH₃)H-.

15. The composition of claim 1 wherein the oligomer resin is a difunctional aromatic urethane acrylate.

16. The composition of claim 1 additionally comprising a tackifier.

17. The composition of claim 16 wherein the tackifier is a compound selected from the group consisting of natural terpenes, synthetic terpenes, phenol modified terpenes, tall oil, gum rosin, wood rosin, glycerol esters of rosin, pentaerythritol esters of rosin, polyvinyl cyclohexane and poly(t-butyl styrene).

18. The composition of claim 16 wherein the tackifier is a hydrocarbon resin.

19. The composition of claim 1 additionally comprising a polymerization initiator.

5 20. The composition of claim 19 wherein the polymerization initiator is a photoinitiator selected from the group consisting of 2-hydroxy-2-methyl-1-phenyl-1-propanone, benzildimethyl ketal, 2,2-diethoxy-1,2-diphenylethanone, 1-hydroxy-cyclohexyl-phenyl ketone, 1-(4-isopropylphenyl)-2-hydroxy-2-methyl-propan-1-one, 1-
10 [4-(2-hydroxyethoxy)phenyl]-2-hydroxy-2-methyl-propan-1-one, 2-methyl-1-[4-(methylthio)phenyl]-2-morpholino-propan-1-one, 2-benzyl-2-dimethylamino-1-(4-morpholinophenyl)-butan-1-one, 3,6-bis(2-methyl-2-morpholino-propanonyl)-9-butyl-carbazole, 4,4'-bis(dimethylamino)benzophenone, 2-chlorothioxanthone, 4-chlorothioxanthone, 2-isopropylthioxanthone, 4-isopropylthioxanthone, 2,4-
15 dimethylthioxanthone, 2,4-diethylthioxanthone, 4-benzoyl-N,N-dimethyl-N-[2-(1-oxo-2-propenyl)oxy]ethylbenzenemethanaminium chloride, methyldiethanolamine, triethanolamine, ethyl 4-(dimethylamino)benzoate, 2-n-butoxyethyl 4-(dimethylamino)benzoate and combinations thereof.

20 21. The composition of claim 19 wherein the polymerization initiator is a photoinitiator selected from the group consisting of 2-hydroxy-2-methyl-1-phenyl-1-propanone and 2-benzyl-2-dimethylamino-1-(4-morpholinophenyl)-butan-1-one.

25 22. A pressure sensitive adhesive formed by subjecting the composition of claim 1 to a polymer-curing dose of polymer-curing radiation.

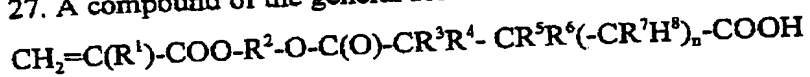
23. The pressure sensitive adhesive of claim 22 wherein the polymer-curing radiation is ultraviolet radiation.

30 24. An adherable article comprising a substrate and, attached to said substrate, the pressure sensitive adhesive of claim 22.

25. The adherable article of claim 24 wherein said substrate comprises a material selected from the group consisting of paper, polymer film, metal, ceramic, glass and wood.

26. The adherable article of claim 24 wherein the adherable article has a peel strength of at least about 1,370 g/in.

27. A compound of the general formula:



wherein R^1 is hydrogen or methyl, R^2 is a substituted or unsubstituted alkylene group having from 2 to about 6 carbon atoms, and R^3 , R^4 , R^5 , R^6 , R^7 , and R^8 are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and the other of said groups R^3 and R^4 is a straight or branched chain, saturated or unsaturated aliphatic, cycloaliphatic, or polycycloaliphatic groups possessing from 1 to about 20 carbon atoms, subject to the provision that at least one of groups R^3 , R^4 , R^5 , R^6 , R^7 , and R^8 is, other than hydrogen, and n is 0 or 1.

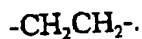
28. The compound of claim 27 wherein R^1 is methyl.

29. The compound of claim 27 wherein R^2 is $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2-$.

30. The compound of claim 27 wherein R^2 is $-\text{CH}_2\text{C}(\text{CH}_3)\text{H}-$.

31. The compound of claim 27 wherein $n=0$ and one of R^3 , R^4 , R^5 , R^6 , R^7 , or R^8 is $-\text{C}_8\text{H}_{15}$.

32. The compound of claim 31 wherein R^1 is hydrogen and R^2 is



33. The compound of claim 31 wherein R^1 is hydrogen and R^2 is $-\text{CH}_2\text{C}(\text{CH}_3)\text{H}-$.

34. The compound of claim 31 wherein R^1 is methyl and R^2 is $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2-$.

5

35. The compound of claim 31 wherein R^1 is methyl and R^2 is $-\text{CH}_2\text{C}(\text{CH}_3)\text{H}-$.

10

36. The compound of claim 27 wherein $n=0$ and one of R^3 , R^4 , R^5 , or R^6 , is $-\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{23}-$.

37. The compound of claim 36 wherein R^1 is hydrogen and R^2 is $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2-$.

15

38. The compound of claim 36 wherein R^1 is hydrogen and R^2 is $-\text{CH}_2\text{C}(\text{CH}_3)\text{H}-$.

39. The compound of claim 36 wherein R^1 is methyl and R^2 is $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2-$.

20

40. The compound of claim 36 wherein R^1 is methyl and R^2 is $-\text{CH}_2\text{C}(\text{CH}_3)\text{H}-$.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US00/23225

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(7) : C09J 4/02, 4/06; C08L 75/16; C08F 2/48, 2/50; C07C 69/347, 67/08.
 US CL : 522/42,96,182,183; 526/322; 560/190,201,204.

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
 U.S. : 522/42,96,182,183; 526/322; 560/190,201,204.

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)
 USPatents, Derwent, EPO, JPO

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 5, 461,087 A (TAKAHASHI et al) 24 October 1995 (24.10.1995), column 3, lines 51-63, colu. 4, lines 33-63, column 5, lines 10-49, column 6, lines 49-55, column 7, lines 38-40, Example 1, Example 5 and Table 1.	1-4,15-30
Y		5-14,31-40
X	US 4,611,087 A (YAMASHITA et al) 09 September 1986 (09.09.1986), Abstract, column 1, lines 54-65, column 2, line 13, to column 3, line 17, column 3, line 54, to column 4, line 4, column 4, lines 28-37, Examples 1-4, column 11, lines 3-50, Example 20.	1-15,19,27-40
Y		15-18,20-26
X	US 5,883,147 A (MASUHARA et al) 16 March 1999 (16.03.1999), Abstract, column 6, lines 8-22 and lines 43-61, column 7, lines 5-28, Example 7, Table 1.	1-14,19-23,27-40
Y		15-18,24-26
X	US 3,770,491 A (SPOOR et al) 06 November 1973 (06.11.1973), Abstract, column 3, line 27, to column 5, line 15, column 5, lines 47-52, column 6, lines 4-7, and Example 8.	1-4,22,24,25,27-30
Y		5-21,23,26,31-40

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

☐ See patent family annex.

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